

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY  
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 4:30 p.m. in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

---

**PRESENT:** Chair Erickson, Delores Pierce, Duane Pierce, Jim Haskins, Louise Dahlke, Joe Witkowski, Rosemary Desisles, Jerry Polus, Ed Koslowski, Tracy Rosinski, Carl Soderberg

---

**\*\*Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1728**

---

1. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Bernie Erickson at 4:30 pm.

2. **Invocation.**

3. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Tracy Rosinski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of March 15, 2016.**

**Motion made by Delores Pierce, seconded by Louise Dahlke to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Budget Status Financial Report, December, 2015.**

Erickson explained the budget status financial report to the Subcommittee and indicated that the County Board has appropriated \$1,000 for the Subcommittee this year.

**Motion made by Ed Koslowski, seconded by Duane Pierce to approve as presented. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **2015 to 2016 Carryover Funds.**

Erickson explained the carryover fund breakdown to the Subcommittee and indicated that he has worked with Internal Auditor Dan Process to restructure the veteran's portion of the budget to allow unused donations to carry over from year to year rather than being returned to the general fund.

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Joe Witkowski to approve as presented. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

7. **Presentation By John Hoes and Karen Stoehr regarding Wellness Center Memorial Event for KIA in Iraq and Afghanistan.**

Erickson explained that John Hoes and Karen Stoehr had contacted him and explained their event. Erickson was advised that they have secured all of the necessary permits and fulfilled all the requirements to hold the event. Stoehr and Hoes wanted to know if the Subcommittee could do anything for this event, but they were not specific with their request. Erickson advised Stoehr and Hoes that they could come to this meeting if they desired to explain their event and let the members of the Subcommittee know what they may need in terms

of help for anyone who may be interested in helping out on their own but noted that this is not an official Subcommittee activity.

Pierce explained the event a little further by saying that the memorial is a wall with pictures of those soldiers from Wisconsin who were killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. On July 2 the wall will be escorted by motorcycles in a parade from Colburn Park to Marquette Park. The wall will be here until July 9 when it will be escorted back to Colburn Park. A number of other activities and events will also be held in conjunction with this. Haskins noted that Stoehr from the Wellness Center is putting the event on and John Hoes is assisting as the event is happening in his neighborhood. Pierce said it was his understanding that what Stoehr and Hoes are looking for are people to stand guard at the wall during the day. The wall will be kept inside the Wellness Center on 9<sup>th</sup> Street at night. Desisles said it was her opinion that the Subcommittee should not become involved in this event as a group, but anyone who wanted could volunteer on their own.

**Motion made by Rosemary Desisles, seconded by Duane Pierce to receive and place on file. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

It should be noted that Karen Stoehr and John Hoes arrived later in the meeting. Erickson allowed them to make their presentation upon their arrival. Stoehr passed out a flyer, a copy of which is attached, that sets forth more details of the event. She explained that she has contracted with The High Ground, which is run by veterans, to get the memorial from July 2 through July 9, 2016. The memorial will be guarded during the day and will be placed in a secure building at night as Pierce said earlier. In addition to the display, there will be a parade and other activities at several locations on 9<sup>th</sup> Street. Stoehr wanted people to come and view the memorial and pay respects to anyone they may know. She will also be inviting the families of the 134 veterans from Wisconsin who have fallen. In addition, Stoehr will be inviting children's groups as she felt it was very important for children to know about this. There will also be an all-male choir from Appleton performing as well as different activities such as crafts and a petting zoo for the children. Stoehr said the three big days for activities will be July 2, July 4 and July 9. All of the activities will be free and she added that the Wellness Center will be offering free services to veterans on the days that they do not have activities planned.

John Hoes added that there will be a professional master of ceremonies for the event and the procession from Colburn Park will begin at 10:30 am and travel to Marquette Park and there will be groups waiting at Marquette Park. The wall will stop by the Wellness Center and begin to set up. The ceremony itself will begin at 11:30 am and will include presentation of the colors and a professional opera singer singing the National Anthem. This will be followed by a table ceremony conducted by the Desert Vets along with guest speakers from the Desert Vets. The same thing will happen on July 4 with two speakers. On July 9 the memorial will be escorted back to Colburn Park by the DAV and Legion Riders as that is also the same day as the Pearly Gates ride. Stoehr stated that she will continue to provide details when specific times are set for the different activities. She also noted that the Marquette Park neighborhood group will be helping them out. Hoes said they are still looking for the use of a large tent and Erickson suggested that he contact the National Guard for this. Hoes also noted that the Military Vehicle Museum in Oshkosh will be providing some vehicles, including a Russian tank, for display.

Erickson advised Stoehr and Hoes that the Subcommittee had talked about this prior to their arrival and it appears that they are basically looking for volunteers to guard the display. Erickson said that if any of the Subcommittee members wanted to volunteer on their own, they could contact Stoehr.

**8. Update re: Honor Rewards Program.**

CVSO Jerry Polus reported that the Honor Rewards Program is moving along very well and there are currently 52 businesses signed up. He said there has been very good participation with the Military Avenue businesses as well as the downtown businesses. Polus is still targeting an official kickoff date with a press conference for Memorial Day weekend and it is his hope to have 100 businesses signed up by then. He wants to be sure there is good momentum going with the program before it is officially kicked off. Erickson asked about businesses in Pulaski, Denmark, Allouez, Howard, Suamico, De Pere and Wrightstown. Polus assured that all of the businesses in the County have been contacted and he has also done some follow up and all of the

businesses have assured him that they will look at the program. Erickson offered to make contact with the Mayor of De Pere as well as Mike Aubinger of the Village of Ashwaubenon. Polus noted that some of the chain businesses, such as Walgreens, have to get permission to participate from their national headquarters.

9. **Possible Discussion re: 2016 Veterans' Appreciation Day at the Brown County Fair.**  
**a. 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Desert Storm**  
**b. Fair Agenda**

Jim Haskins said that the last Fair Board meeting was cancelled due to the weather, but he will attend the next meeting. He also said that he has asked Laura Nehlson to sing the National Anthem again this year and she is willing to do so. Polus distributed a copy of the agenda from last year's event for discussion purposes. It was noted that the event is scheduled for August 20, 2016.

The group went over the agenda to get an idea of what time things will be happening due to moving the event up to earlier in the day. It was noted that the tents will be open from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm with the ceremony beginning at 3:00 pm. A discussion was held regarding the band and Polus noted that the band that he talked about at the last meeting wanted \$500 to perform and Polus indicated that that was too much. The band then offered to perform for \$400 which Polus also advised them was too much. Polus suggested that we book Monterey Trail again this year and Koslowski will contact them to be sure they are available. The band will perform between 2:00 – 3:00 pm and then take a break during the ceremony and come back after the ceremony to play until about 4:30 pm. The welcome will be done by Chair Erickson, followed by posting of the colors. Koslowski will work with the Desert Vets to arrange for the posting of colors. The Pledge of Allegiance will follow and will be led by Mike Alsteen if he is available. The chaplain prayer will be after the Pledge and Tracy Rosinski said that she possibly has a chaplain who could do the prayer. The National Anthem will follow the prayer and then County Executive Troy Streckenbach will give the welcome. Erickson noted that Lynn Geiser laid the wreath last year, but due to a new job she is no longer able to be a part of this Subcommittee. Koslowski will try to find a desert vet to lay the wreath. Koslowski asked Pierce to ask Don and Gene if they are available to do Echo Taps again this year. Suggestions were made for a desert vet to speak and Polus will try to arrange this. The recognition of vets will follow the speaker. The vets will be presented with a certificate as well as a memento of some type. A discussion followed on this and there were several suggestions such as coins and pins. Erickson will look into this a little further and let the Subcommittee know what he finds. The retirement of the colors will most likely be done by the same persons who do the posting of the colors. Door prize drawings will follow the retirement of the colors. Erickson noted that he will be able to get some door prizes again this year. Following the door prizes the band will play again for another hour or so. Louise Dahlke said that the band can perform as long as they want.

Koslowski asked about a stage and Dahlke said that the group would have to rent a stage as they did last year. She will let the group know if the same stage that was rented last year is available again this year.

A discussion was also held regarding veterans who show up that are not Brown County residents. The consensus was that non-County veterans would be welcome to take part in the event and nobody would be turned away.

Erickson said that Polus should work on the poster to have it ready at the May meeting for discussion and review. Koslowski said that tickets should be made available in June so that the veterans groups can distribute the tickets at their July meetings. Dahlke asked if Koslowski wanted the static display area again and he indicated that he did. He also mentioned the reflections tent that he discussed at the last meeting. If he cannot find a military tent, he would like to find out how much it would cost for a 12 by 12 or 12 by 14 tent to be set up by the company that sets up the other tents at the Fair.

10. **Discussion and decision re: non-attending Subcommittee members.**

Erickson did not have anything to discuss on this other than what he mentioned earlier with regard to Lynn Geiser.

**11. Report from CVSO Jerry Polus.**

Polus did not have anything to add other than what had been discussed earlier in the meeting.

**12. Comments from Carl Soderberg.**

Soderberg provided an update on the bill regarding funding a study in the VA on the effects of agent orange on descendants of veterans. The bill currently has 195 co-sponsors and it is in the same committee, so essentially there is no change, no progress.

**13. Report from Committee Members Present (Erickson, Dahlke, Desisles, Haskins, Koslowski, Pierce, Rosinski & Witkowski).**

-Erickson did not have anything further to report other than what was covered earlier in the meeting.

-Dahlke did not have anything to report other than what has already been discussed.

-Desisles also did not have anything further to report.

-Haskins reported that he had recently seen on Facebook a young girl who played full length Taps which he had never heard before but found very inspiring. He also reported on a soldier who was taken into captivity in South Korea on February 15, 1951. The soldier has died and will be laid to rest in his hometown of Greenville, Mississippi on April 23.

-Koslowski reported that Rolling Thunder is having a brat fry at the VFW Duck Creek Pub beginning at 11:00 am on April 23. The Amvets will then be holding a meat raffle beginning at 2:00 pm and Rocker will perform beginning at 4:00 pm.

-Pierce said that during Armed Forces Weekend, May 21-23, the Annual Veterans Pow Wow will be held in Keshena and will honor all Vietnam and Vietnam-era veterans. He asked people to pass the word on this to help ensure a good attendance. He said that Friday night at 6:00 pm the flag raising will be held in the bowl with 20+ flagpoles which is very moving. The grand entrance will be held Saturday at 1:00 pm and the snake dance and rifle firing will be held at 7:00 pm. Sunday the grand entrance will be held at 12:00 noon and Rolling Thunder will be doing a table ceremony after that.

-Rosinski reported that Heartland wants to start a support group for non-hospice people and the bereavement coordinator would like to start a group for veterans. She would like to talk to Polus about this a little further down the road and will call him to set up a time.

-Witkowski shared a newspaper article about a Racine non-profit that is building tiny houses for homeless veterans. The article said the Mayor has been helping the non-profit with its efforts and sees the project as something that could help the City reach its goal of having zero homeless veterans. He asked if there are still homeless veterans in Green Bay in light of the housing project that was built. Witkowski asked how many veterans are housed in the new housing unit. Polus said that it holds 50 veterans and it is currently full. Erickson said that there has been some talk about adding some transitional housing which would be a temporary step between a homeless shelter and moving into an apartment.

Witkowski also brought up an article he had seen regarding the wait for healthcare for veterans. He said he felt that there are a number of people suffering in the time before they are able to receive medical care. He does not exactly know what the definition of a recognition subcommittee is. He said it seems like we are a pie and ice cream group and he would like to see changing the recognition to help veterans in situations like being able to assist homeless veterans and assist veterans who are not receiving medical treatment on a timely basis. He asked if this group could head into something like that. Polus responded that there are multiple programs and organizations and resources to help veterans. He thought this recognition subcommittee is here to recognize veterans and not to solve their veteran issues. Rosinski said that the subcommittee can

help veterans connect to resources they may need. Polus said that Witkowski has good intentions, but it would be impossible to keep track of homeless veterans. He said that there are so many programs that help people and his office works to get people pointed in the right direction to the services they need. Witkowski said he was hoping to start some sort of mentoring program for this group to work with veterans to help them get the medical treatment they need. Polus said that the problem lies in the way the Veterans Choice program is being administered and it is from federal bureaucracy down. Witkowski said the reason he is bringing this up is because the current program is not working and as a subcommittee of the Brown County Board of Supervisors he would like to be able to do something more for veterans. Polus said that any veterans in need can contact his office and his staff is able to point them in the right direction as there are so many resources available. Rosinski added that the Fair event is another platform that can be used to get information out to the veterans in need.

Polus said that they just updated the veterans' organization list for Brown County and he will provide a copy to the group at the next meeting. There are currently about 30 veterans groups working in the area to help veterans with various issues and needs.

Witkowski reiterated that he had hoped to set up some sort of mentoring system for veterans that could be discussed on a monthly basis and talk about ways to help these people, whether it's with homeless issues or medical issues. Polus said that something that would really be appreciated would be for Witkowski to set up a weekly or monthly visit to veterans in nursing homes. Rosinski also said that Witkowski could be a volunteer at Heartland for the Vet to Vet program.

**14. Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

Koslowski said that he was approached by Bill Trombley who works with suicide awareness and he would like to come to one of the Subcommittee's meetings to talk about some issues. Erickson said that he will add him to the agenda for next month.

**15. Adjourn.**

**Motion made by Jim Haskins, seconded by Duane Pierce to adjourn at 5:56 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary



1028 Ninth Street,  
Green Bay, WI 54304  
(920) 490-9699  
email@9thstwellness.com  
www.9thstwellness.com

## **9<sup>th</sup> Street Veteran's Wellness EXPO & Events in Honor of our Desert Veterans in WI Saturday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> through July 9<sup>th</sup>**

Surrounding Neighborhoods take advantage of this unique opportunity to experience, explore, discover, participate and enjoy what this EXPO & Event has to offer!

Important to know: Streets the Parade will be routed. Join us with your attendance with a Flag, Banner, Sign while Memorial is passing your area to give Tribute to the Fallen Desert Veterans. (Parade July 2<sup>nd</sup> 10am and July 9<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm)  
If not able to view Parade stop on July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> at the Wellness Center to view Memorial, Speakers, variety of Ceremonies.

Family activities: Petting Zoo, Games, Crafts, Face Painting, Gardens, Food, Movie and Entertainment for all ages

**9<sup>th</sup> Street Farmhouse will have the Memorial on display (1026 Ninth Street)  
All activities will take place at: 1022, 1026, 1028 9<sup>th</sup> Street  
More info contact Karen at 490-9699**

Karen Stoehr (9th Street Wellness Center) 920-490-9699 and John Hoes, Veteran 920-471-2189 have booked The Traveling Photo Memorial of Wisconsin Fallen Soldiers in the Global War on Terror Desert Shield, Desert Storm, OIF (Operation Iraqi Freedom) OEF (Operation Enduring Freedom) OND (Operation New Dawn)  
**This Memorial will come into Green Bay from The High Ground in Neillsville, WI**

<b>Saturday July 2, 2016 10:00am</b>	Memorial Coming into Green Bay with a parade, hosting the Desert Veterans of WI, Vietnam Veterans, American Legion/Legion Riders, DAV (Disabled Veterans) School Groups/Clubs/Marching bands and Local Veteran's  The parade will start at Colburn Park (lower level parking lot) to Fisk St. left on 9th St. down to Marquette Park over to 9th Street Wellness Center and 9th Street Farmhouse (1026 and 1028 9th Street)
<b>Saturday July 9, 2016 3:30pm</b>	Memorial Leaving our City with a parade with same route as above with John Hoes as lead escort, American Legion/ Legion Riders, DAV (Disabled Veterans) Clubs/School Groups/Marching Bands and Local Veteran's